

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

US MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2240

PASS AGRICULTURE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, DA

SUBJ: DANISH CROP OUTLOOK REMAINS FAVORABLE

1. DEPISTE THE EXTENDED DROUGHT ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE AND THE DRIEST JUNE IN DENMARK SINCE 1898, DANISH GRAIN CROP PROSPECTS REMAIN CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN LAST YEAR. THE CURRENT FORECAST OF TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION IS 7 MILLION METRIC TONS, 10 PERCENT MORE THAN THE REDUCED 1975 CROP AND ABOUT THE SAME AS REPORTED EARLIER. SIGNIFICANT RAIN HAS NOT FALLEN SINCE MAY 31 AND CONTINUED DRYNESS WILL CAUSE DETERIORATION BUT THE TOTAL HARVEST STILL SEEMS CERTAIN TO EXCEED THE 6.3 MILLION TONS PRODUCED LAST YEAR WHEN THE CROP WAS ALSO AFFECTED BY DRY

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WEATHER. PART OF THE GAIN WILL BE DUE TO A 3 PERCENT INCREASE

IN THE AREA PLANTED TO ALL GRAINS TO 1.77 MILLION HECTARES.  
DENMARK RECEIVED ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL IN APRIL AND MAY AND  
CROPS AND PASTURE ENTERED THE DRY SPELL IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

2. OFFICIAL REPORTS AS OF JULY 5 SHOW SOME OVERALL DETERIORATION  
DURING PAST TWO WEEKS. WITH 100 INDICATING NORMAL DEVELOP-  
MENT, THE EARLY JULY SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS: WHEAT 100, RYE  
98, BARLEY 96 OATS 94, BEETS 95, POTATOES 95, RAPESEED 95,  
GRASS SEED 98, GRASSLAND 88.

3. WHILE GRASSLAND HAS SUFFERED MOST RECENT DAMAGE, FIRST  
HARVESTING OF HAY AND SILAGE YIELDS WERE 10 PERCENT ABOVE  
AVERAGE. HOWEVER, RAIN IS BADLY NEEDED TO START SATISFACTORY  
RE-GROWTH. MILK PRODUCTION IS CURRENTLY RUNNING 4 PERCENT  
ABOVE LAST YEAR AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO DECREASE MUCH EVEN  
IF DROUGHT CONTINUE BUT INCREASED SUPPLEMENT FEEDING WILL BE  
REQUIRED.

4. THE CURRENT HOT WEATHER MAY ADVANCE THE BEGINNING OF THE  
GRAIN HARVEST A WEEK OR TWO FROM THE NORMAL EARLY AUGUST.  
THE HARVEST OF GRASS SEEDS WILL START SOON AND A NEAR TO NORMAL  
CROP IS EXPECTED. THE BEET CROP HAD A POOR START DUE TO COLD  
SPRING WEATHER; HOWEVER RECENT WARM WEATHER HAS IMPROVED  
PROSPECTS AND SATISFACTORY YIELDS ARE EXPECTED IF THERE IS  
ADEQUATE RAINFALL DURING REMAINDER OF GROWING SEASON.  
POTATOES SHOW SLIGHT DETERIORATION RECENTLY BUT THIS COULD BE  
OFFSET BY JULY AND AUGUST RAINFALL, ALTHOUGH QUALITY MAY BE  
BELOW NORMAL. POTATO CROP SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE SIGNIFI-  
CANTLY LARGER THAN LAST YEAR AS ACREAGE IS UP 16 PERCENT TO  
36,000 HECTARES.

5. IN REACTION TO DROUGHT AND SHORT CROP PROSPECTS ELSEWHERE  
IN EC, LOCAL GRAIN PRICE QUOTATIONS ARE STRENGTHENING.  
THE IMMEDIATE PAST HARVEST PRICE EXPECTATIONS  
FOR BARLEY ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, CURRENTLY 93 KRONER PER 100  
KILOS AS COMPARED TO 85 KRONER EXPECTED A WEEK AGO. THE  
DANES FORESEE A GOOD EXPORT MARKET IN WEST GERMANY DUE TO  
THE DROUGHT THERE AND IN FRANCE.  
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